

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors
Minutes

September 26, 2002
4:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, Ca.

Chair Jane Dolan called the meeting of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum to order at 4:10 p.m. at the above location. It was determined there was a quorum of (9) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	David Womble	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	(Bill Borrer)	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR			(Dwight Russell)
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			(Pete Rabbon)
USF&WS			Marie Sullivan
US COE			(Mark Charlton)
Bureau of Reclamation			Laura Allen

Names listed in parentheses represent absences
Also present an estimated audience of 20
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

- 1) **Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters-** Paul Ward, Department of Fish and Game introduced Armand Gonsales, their new Region II Deputy Director. John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT) announced two upcoming river float trips from Jellys Ferry to Bend on Oct. 26th and 27th. The cost is \$25.00 but space is limited; contact the SRPT office for further information. Carol Wright, Sacramento River Partners, (SRP), had presented two projects at the September 19th TAC meeting and has project summaries available for anyone who is interested. Ben Carter presented a framed picture from the SRCAF to Denny Bungarz thanking Denny for his leadership as Chairman, 2000 – 2001.
- 2) **Consent Calendar-** Don Anderson moved, seconded by Mel Dodgin to adopt the August 22nd, 2002 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 3) **Action on Tabled Motion- (Handbook, page 4-13)** - At the August 22nd board meeting there had been discussion as to whether the sentence “*Private ownership includes both agricultural lands and lands with various types of vegetation*” should be changed to “may” include homes, buildings, etc. or be deleted in its entirety. A motion to delete had been tabled to see if language could be developed that would resolve the issue. Shirley Lewis had expressed concerns that language referring to private ownership should include references to i.e. homes, buildings, boat landings, etc.; others expressed the concern that it would have to be an all-inclusive list. The Executive Committee had discussed the language and suggested revising it to “*includes many land uses such as homes, etc.*” Following discussion at the Board, some additional changes were suggested. Shirley Lewis offered a substitute motion to adopt the new sentence “*Private ownership encompasses many land uses including homes, recreational facilities, buildings, pumping plants, flood control structures, agricultural lands and lands with various types of vegetation*”, seconded by Ben Carter. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Tom Evans, Family Water Alliance, informed the Chair that a letter had been sent to the SRCAF office requesting a Handbook amendment to remove language referring to setback levees.
- 4) **Agency Reports-** Sue Fry, Corps of Engineers, updated the group on The Comprehensive Study Interim Report, 2002. The public forums were completed about a month ago and a team is now working on answering the written comments. One recurring comment concerned the availability of the technical details that came out of the modeling. They are working now to find the best way to move forward with that information. The written comments have been compiled in a spreadsheet and will be included with the responses that will be out, hopefully, by early October. As the need indicates, a Project Manager will arrange to meet with an individual or small group. In December, 2002, the report will go to the Reclamation Board; there will be one more review prior to that and then a final review before it goes out. The technical documentation will be available for people in the same December time frame. The technical information will not include the model; they hope to have that available for public users next spring. A question was raised as to whether the public could view the comments, Sue noted she would follow up to see if there were a legal issue involved. Henry Rodegerdts, California Farm Bureau Federation, pointed out the difficulty he had encountered when trying to hand deliver comments to a “secured” building. Tom Evans asked if people who made comments would receive a copy of the revised Interim Report since it will not be released to the public again; Sue noted they will be looking to the Reclamation Board for direction on how that will be handled. It was also noted that the hydraulic studies, initially unavailable because of fear of terrorism, will be “scrubbed” and then released. People were encouraged to attend the Reclamation Board meeting on December 21st; the last meeting that was held to discuss the Study had very little representation from the Sacramento Valley.
- Hamilton City – Sue also discussed Hamilton City, still a part of The Comprehensive Study, but now there is funding for a Feasibility Study. On 9/23, in Hamilton City, it was announced that \$420,000 was awarded to The Reclamation Board from CALFED for a

study that combines flood control and ecosystem restoration. The study should be completed by December, 2003, will go to Washington for review, and then to Congress for authorization in 2004. There will be outreach in this area, the Comprehensive Study will participate in those meetings and will update the SRCAF as often as requested. Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, announced there will be another Hamilton City Workgroup meeting within 3-4 weeks. Burt also noted the efforts of the SRCAF and the local involvement that helped to move this forward.

5) **Board Committee Reports -**

- Executive Committee- There was discussion with the SRCAF Manager about the possibility of a grant from The Resources Law Group to the SRCAF for some professional assistance in developing a strategic plan and improving organizational effectiveness.
- Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC)- Ben Carter discussed his presentation at the August Board meeting; the Committee is now looking for comments from the Board on the Good Neighbor Policy(GNP), Revision 8. A letter was received from Bill Paris, legal counsel for the SRCAF, who had reviewed the document and did not see any liability issues for the organization on the front part of the document, Policy actions through #2 g. Ben will contact Bill to discuss further and offered the suggestion that Bill also be invited to come to the Board to discuss his review.
- TAC- Anjanette Martin, TAC Chair, discussed the September 19th meeting. Discussion focused on an objection that had been raised to language in the GNP regarding baseline studies. Carol Wright, SRP, had expressed concerns that the language appeared to be asking for additional information from project proponents beyond that required on the Project Fact Sheet. She had asked that, because they have to go through the permitting process, if that information were to be furnished, would that satisfy the requirements in the GNP? The recommendation from the TAC was that the Project Fact Sheet would be revised to include a section on permitting that would include what permits are required, how they were obtained, existing baseline study information, and CEQA/NEPA if applicable. That information is also available for public review. The question was raised to the LAC Chair if adding the permitting information would be sufficient? It was suggested that there seems to be a need for a better understanding of what is required by the permitting. Burt suggested inviting Pete Rabbon from The Reclamation Board to come to the TAC to discuss the permitting requirements. Tom Evans commented that the idea of baseline studies should be in terms of the entire system, not project-by-project. It was noted that in relation to the GNP, the references are to individual projects. A request was made that a permit be made available for the group to review; Carol offered to make one of SRP's permits available for review. Carol also submitted language for the LAC to consider that indicates the permitting process and TAC/SRCAF project review process would be sufficient information to meet the requirements of the GNP. At the next LAC meeting on November 6th the Committee will review the recommendation from the TAC, the letter from Bill Paris, and additional data on the permitting process if possible. Denny noted other groups are recognizing and following what this organization is doing with respect to the GNP.
- PILT/Economic Committee – The Chairman, Denny Bungarz, informed the group that

the meeting originally scheduled for 9/16/02 had been moved to 9/30/02 because the draft Economic Study was not ready for review by the 16th. The draft is now completed and the Committee will discuss the report on Monday, 9/30. At a subsequent meeting they will discuss what the process will be; the question of what role the Forum will have as regards general review and/or peer review. A question was raised concerning the possibility of another public meeting.

- Outreach Committee- Chair Laura Allen noted the latest draft of the SRCAF brochure was reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to the Board meeting. The brochure should be completed and printed by the November meeting at the latest.

- 6) **Managers Report** – A Public Use and Recreation meeting was held on 9/23 in Hamilton City to gather public input regarding public access uses on the river. The meeting was conducted by EDAW and The Nature Conservancy and facilitated by the SRCAF. A draft map was reviewed which shows public ownership, not public access, along the river from Red Bluff to Colusa; the map will eventually be available on the NPO website. There will be another public comment period but it has not been scheduled as yet. Contact the SRCAF office at 528-7411 if you would like additional information.

Colusa Boat Ramp – An Ad Hoc committee formed by the Colusa City Council has been meeting to discuss the boat ramp at the Colusa State Park; costly dredging is affecting the ability to keep it open. Burt met with Supervisor Dave Womble, a member of the committee, a representative from the Wildlife Conservation Board, and others to identify needs and possible solutions. This is an extremely important piece involving other entities such as Roberts Irrigation Ditch as well as public safety.

Directed Action Proposals are due October 1 followed by a 30-day public comment period. The TAC will have an opportunity to review those proposals at the October meeting.

The Advisory Council meeting is set for November 6th and is tentatively scheduled in Chico.

- 7) **Future Meeting Schedule** – Because of conflicting schedules, the Executive Committee recommended that the SRCAF Board meetings be moved to the third Thursday of the month and the TAC meetings to the first Thursday. The two-week gap between the two would allow time for the Board to receive and review the TAC notes prior to the Board meeting, rather than the same day. During Board discussion, it was noted that the first Thursday of the month is the same day that the CALFED Working Landscapes Committee meets. The TAC Chair will work with SRCAF staff to email the TAC and see if a day other than Thursday during the first week would fit. The October TAC had already been scheduled for October 17th and will not change so that the Committee can review the Directed Action Proposals. Changes to the TAC meeting date will begin in November. SRCAF staff will also look into the possibility having the November 21st Board meeting at Turtle Bay in Redding with an option of coming earlier for an opportunity to tour the facility. This would also provide an opportunity to see how the Forum could fit in with their program.

The next Board meeting was also set for October 17th at **3:00 p.m.**, (earlier time during the winter months) at the Monday Afternoon Club, Willows.